

**CITY OF LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARK AND GOLF COURSE TREE TRIMMING POLICY**

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide guidelines and procedures for the trimming of any and all trees exclusively in or on the parks and golf courses in the City of Long Beach.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) is obligated to trim trees in City parks and on City golf courses for the safety of the public and the protection of property. In order to provide proper environmental stewardship, tree trimming will be conducted in an environmentally friendly manner and in accordance with all environmental recommendations, as generally determined by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG).

3.0 POLICY

- 3.1 Department Policy requires that all tree trimming conducted in City parks and golf courses adhere to the procedures outlined in this document.

4.0 PROCEDURES

- 4.1 During nesting season (January 15 to September 1), unless a situation hazardous to the public exists, no tree trimming may be conducted within 100 feet of any tree containing an active nest or the presence of nesting activity.
- 4.2 The presence of active nests or nesting activity shall be determined by an ornithologist, prior to any trimming.
- 4.3 Nesting activity is broadly defined as commencing with courtship activity among adults and ending when all fledglings have become juveniles and are able to fly. The nesting period generally falls between January 15 and July 15. As a matter of course, City will extend this period through September 1 as to our trimming period. It must also be noted that juvenile or adult birds occupying a nest do not automatically constitute nesting activity.
- 4.4 Whenever possible, annual tree trimming shall be scheduled between September 2 and January 14.

4.5 Trimming of selected trees by hand for the removal of fruit may be conducted during the period from January 15 to September 1. The City will consult with an ornithologist to assure that the Federally required standoff distance is maintained and that adjacent nesting birds are not distressed.

4.6 Where possible, trimming shall be conducted in such a way as to avoid damage to existing nests. In those cases where structurally unstable nests or the unstable limbs on which they are located pose an imminent danger to the public, trimming may be conducted to protect the public.

5.0 REVIEW AND REVISION

5.1 It is the responsibility of the Manager of Maintenance Operations to review and update this policy and procedure on an annual basis or when City policies and procedures change.

APPROVED:

AUTHORIZED ON:



PHIL T. HESTER
DIRECTOR

November 19, 2009
